

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated February 23, 2005 (Paper No. 205). The present Amendment amends claims 1, 8, 9 and 15 and cancels claims 2 and 10 in order to further clarify a portion of the scope sought to be patented, and otherwise disputes certain findings of fact made in connection with the rejection of the claims. Further, claim 3 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1, and claim 11 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 9. Previously withdrawn claims 13 and 16 have been canceled according to the Examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, and 14-15 are presently pending in the application, each of which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the present Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim to Priority

Acknowledgement of the proper receipt of the certified formal papers filed in connection with Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is noted with appreciation.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant thanks the examiner for recognizing claims 2-7 and 10-12 as containing allowable subject matter as indicated on page 3 of the Office Action. The applicant also thanks the examiner for recognizing allowable claim 14 on page 3 of the Office Action. In accordance with the examiner's suggestion, claims 2 and 10 have been canceled and set forth in independent form. Specifically, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 8, and the allowable subject matter of claim 10 has been incorporated into claims 9 and 15. Claims 3-7, being either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 1, and claims 11-12, being either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 9, are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency. Withdrawal of the objection to these claims and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

The amendment to the specification is to correct a typographical error reflected in the October 6, 2004 restriction requirement response. Specifically, the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 should read, *inter alia*, “7×9”, as demonstrated in the original specification.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action, claims 1, 8-9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,067,383 to Taniguchi (“Taniguchi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 2, and claims 9 and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore courteously solicited.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2194 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

5/23/05

Respectfully submitted,

By

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